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RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0217  
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC  
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC  
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UNCLAS MANAGUA 002457

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STATE PASS USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KIPR ECON PREL WTO NU

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA MUTE ON WHO IPR ISSUES

REF: A. SECSTATE 144926

1B. MANAGUA 2086

1C. SECSTATE 121503

11. (SBU) On October 30, Econoff delivered Ref A demarche, on Brazilian efforts to weaken intellectual property protections for pharmaceuticals through World Health Organization fora, to Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Development (MIFIC) Director General for International Trade Sonia Somarriba. She was unable to provide a substantive response, but promised to study the issue. She explained that the MIFIC official who covers World Trade Organization issues had recently left the ministry and that for intellectual property rights she has no permanent staff. Somarriba reported that Nicaragua's mission in Geneva would represent Nicaragua in the upcoming Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (IGWG).

12. (SBU) In a follow-up conversation on November 6, Somarriba said the issue was still being studied. In response to a related demarche delivered on September 6 (Ref C), MIFIC officials said that the best we could hope for is that Nicaragua would remain silent on this issue (Ref A).

13. (SBU) As requested in Ref A, post has forwarded this information by email to Tanuja Garde at USTR.

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